GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3888
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Schemes for PRIs
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);
(b) whether any new schemes are proposed to be implemented to strengthen the PRIs and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the criteria and procedure for allocation and utilization of funds under these schemes, Scheme-wise;
(d) whether the funds allocated/released under the schemes have been fully utilized by the PRIs during the last three years and the current year;
(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure optimum utilization of funds by them, State/UT-wise; and
(f) the details of the reported cases of irregularities/mismanagement/diversion of funds by States/PRIs under the schemes and the action taken/to be taken by the Union Government thereon, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) : Two schemes namely Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) and District Component of Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) were being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj till 2014-15. The State Component of RGPSA and the District Component of BRGF has been delinked from budgetary support of Central Government w.e.f. 2015-16. The Ministry has been providing funds to the States for strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country under the restructured scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

(b) The new restructured scheme of RGSA aims at strengthening PRIs by way of capacity building of stakeholders of Panchayats, through more use of technology and handholding some Panchayats as per learning centres.

(c) to (e): Under RGSA the funds are released to States on the basis of their Annual Plans covering various activities relevant for strengthening of PRIs as per the guidelines of erstwhile RGPSA. The details of State/UT-wise funds sanctioned, released and utilised during the last three years and current year under RGPSA/RGSA are at Annexure-I. The monitoring of progress of implementation of the scheme including utilisation of funds is closely monitored with the States through meetings, video-conferences etc. Further release of funds to the States is considered depending upon the status of utilization of funds released in the past.
Under the District Component of BRGF, funds were provided for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies to address the critical gaps in integrated development identified through the participative planning processes and to build capacity of Elected Representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions in planning, budgeting, implementing, accounting, monitoring and improving accountability and transparency of developmental works. A statement indicating State-wise allocation, funds released and utilized during 2013-14 & 2014-15 is at Annexure-II. This Scheme has been delinked from Central assistance w.e.f. 2015-16.

(f): No case has been reported so far from any State related to mismanagement or irregularity of funds.

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